

CLAIMS

*Part 23*  
1. A method of ordering and delivering merchandise in an electronic mall, comprising the steps of:

opening an electronic mall composed of virtual stores on a network;

accepting access from a user terminal available to any user to said electronic mall through a communication path;

providing merchandise information to said user terminal;

accepting an order of merchandise on the basis of said merchandise information;

providing delivery destination selection information concerning delivery of said ordered merchandise to said user terminal;

accepting a delivery destination requested from said user terminal on the basis of said delivery destination selection information;

providing map information concerning said delivery destination to said user terminal;

accepting a specific delivery destination determined from said user terminal based on the map information; and

providing information of said specific delivery designation and said merchandise order information to said delivery destination.

2. A method of ordering and delivering

merchandise in an electronic mall, comprising the steps of:

opening an electronic mall composed of virtual stores on a network;

accepting access from a user terminal available to any user to said electronic mall through a public telephone line;

providing merchandise information to said user terminal;

accepting an order of merchandise on the basis of said merchandise information;

providing selection information to said user terminal, said selection information containing a choice of a dealer of a neighborhood capable of mediating delivery on the basis of a pre-set address of said user terminal, as a delivery designation of said ordered merchandise;

accepting a delivery destination address requested from said user terminal on the basis of said delivery destination selection information, and, when said dealer of the neighborhood capable of mediating delivery is selected as said delivery designation, selecting relevant map information of said data on the basis of the address of said user terminal from systematized data of a plurality of maps provided so as to select said dealer capable of mediating delivery, and providing said map information to said user terminal;

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accepting a specific dealer as a delivery designation determined from said user terminal on the basis of said map information; and

providing information of said delivery destination and information of said merchandise order to said delivery destination.

3. A method of ordering and delivering merchandise in an electronic mall by providing said electronic mall of virtual stores on a network, accepting order of merchandise through a public telephone line from a user terminal available to any user and performing a service of delivering said merchandise to said user, said method comprising the steps of:

providing merchandise information to said user terminal;

accepting an order of merchandise on the basis of said merchandise information;

providing selection information to said user terminal, said selection information containing a choice of a dealer of a neighborhood capable of mediating delivery on the basis of a pre-set address of said user terminal as a delivery designation of said ordered merchandise;

accepting a delivery destination address requested from said user terminal on the basis of said delivery destination selection information, and, when said dealer of the neighborhood capable

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of mediating delivery is selected as said delivery designation, selecting relevant map information of said data on the basis of the address of said user terminal from systematized data of a plurality of maps provided so as to select said dealer capable of mediating delivery, and providing said map information to said user terminal;

accepting a specific dealer as a delivery destination determined from said user terminal on the basis of said map information;

providing related information containing advertising information of said specific dealer to said user terminal in response to the accepting of said specific dealer; and

providing information of said delivery destination and information of said merchandise order to said delivery destination.

4. A system of ordering and delivering merchandise in an electronic mall by accepting an order of merchandise from any customer through a home page or a virtual store concerning sales of merchandise and constructed on a network by a sales merchant and through said network and delivering said ordered merchandise to a delivery destination designated by said customer, said system comprising:

a map information unit for holding systematized data of a plurality of maps as map

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a dealer information unit for storing dealer information concerning dealers capable of dealing or mediating merchandise and addresses of said dealers;

a map information display unit by which said plurality of maps can be retrieved on the basis of address information;

means for searching for a map having a dealer of a neighborhood of the delivery destination in a region of said map on the basis of said address information of said customer when a dealer is to be selected as a delivery destination of merchandise by said customer upon accepting of the customer's order; and

means for determining a dealer selected by said customer as a delivery destination of said merchandise based on the searched map, through display on said home page or said virtual store.

5. A system of ordering and delivering merchandise in an electronic mall by accepting an order of merchandise from any customer through a home page or a virtual store concerning sales of merchandise and constructed on a network by a sales merchant and through said network and delivering said ordered merchandise to a delivery destination designated by said customer, said system comprising:

a map information unit for holding systematized digital or image data of a plurality of maps;

a dealer information unit for storing dealer information concerning dealers capable of dealing or mediating merchandise and addresses of said dealers;

a map information display unit by which said plurality of maps can be retrieved;

means for searching for a map having a dealer of a neighborhood of the delivery destination in a region of said map on the basis of address information input through said terminal by said customer when said specific dealer is to be selected as a delivery destination by said customer upon accepting of an order of merchandise from said customer; and

means for determining as a delivery destination of said merchandise, a specific dealer selected by said customer based on said searched map displayed together with said dealer information on said home page or said virtual store.

6. A system of ordering and delivering merchandise in an electronic mall by accepting an order of merchandise from any customer through a home page or a virtual store concerning sales of merchandise and constructed on a network by a sales merchant and through said network and delivering

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said ordered merchandise to a delivery destination designated by said customer, said system comprising:

a map information unit for holding systematized digital or image data of a plurality of maps;

a dealer information unit for storing dealer information concerning dealers capable of dealing or mediating merchandise and addresses of said dealers;

a map information display unit by which said plurality of maps can be retrieved;

means for searching for a map having a dealer of a neighborhood of the delivery destination in a region of said map on the basis of address information input through said terminal by said customer when said specific dealer is to be selected as a delivery destination by said customer when upon accepting of an order of merchandise from said customer;

means for determining as a delivery destination of said merchandise, a specific dealer selected by said customer based on said searched map displayed together with said dealer information on said home page or said virtual store; and

means for entering said dealer information together with advertising information concerning an outline of said dealer, merchandise

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and service through a dealer's computer system or terminal connected to said network.

7. A system of ordering and delivering merchandise in an electronic mall by accepting an order of merchandise from any customer through a home page or a virtual store concerning sales of merchandise and constructed on a network by a sales merchant and through said network and delivering said ordered merchandise to a delivery destination designated by said customer, said system comprising:

a map information unit for holding systematized digital or image data of a plurality of maps;

a dealer information unit for storing dealer information concerning dealers capable of dealing or mediating merchandise and addresses of said dealers;

a map information display unit by which said plurality of maps can be retrieved;

means for searching for a map having a dealer of a neighborhood of the delivery destination in a region of said map on the basis of address information input through said terminal by said customer when said specific dealer is to be selected as a delivery destination by said customer upon accepting of an order of merchandise from said customer;

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means for determining as a delivery destination of said merchandise, a specific dealer selected by said customer based on said searched map displayed together with said dealer information on said home page or said virtual store; and

means for displaying a convenience store in a designated region so as to be superposed on a map of said designated region on the basis of said dealer information containing data of positional information, store name, etc. corresponding to coordinates on each map in said map information as address data of said convenience store capable of dealing or mediating merchandise.

8. A method of ordering and delivering merchandise in an electronic mall by accepting an order of merchandise from any customer through a home page or a virtual store concerning sales of merchandise and constructed on a network by a sales merchant and through said network and delivering said ordered merchandise to a delivery destination designated by said customer, said method comprising the steps of:

when a specific dealer is to be selected as a delivery destination of merchandise by said customer upon accepting of an order of merchandise from said customer through said terminal,

searching for a map having said specific dealer of a neighborhood of the delivery

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destination in the region of said map on the basis of address information input by said customer;

displaying said map on said home page or said virtual store; and

determining said specific dealer selected by said customer as a delivery destination of said merchandise.

9. A method of ordering and delivering merchandise in an electronic mall by accepting an order of merchandise from any customer through a home page or a virtual store concerning sales of merchandise and constructed on a network by a sales merchant and through said network and delivering said ordered merchandise to a delivery destination designated by said customer, said method comprising the steps of:

when a dealer is to be selected as a delivery destination of merchandise by said customer when upon accepting of an order of merchandise from said customer through said terminal,

searching for a map having said dealer of a neighborhood of the delivery destination in a region of said map on the basis of address information input by said customer;

displaying said searched map on said home page or said virtual store;

determining a specific dealer selected by

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said customer as a delivery destination of said merchandise, based on the displayed map;

determining and preparing a delivery schedule on the basis of a condition of a contract with reference to delivery schedule models predetermined in consideration of delivery schedules determined on the basis of past data when said contract is made with respect to said merchandise; and

performing schedule management periodically by using electronic mail while monitoring whether inspection information exists in a specified period when said dealer exists.

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